

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01 IO-13 OMB-01 ACDA-12 /077 W  
-----130204 051942Z /41

O R 051720Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1865  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
DIA WASHDC  
AMCONSUL FLORENCE  
AMCONSUL GENOA  
AMBASSY LONDON 1787  
AMCONSUL MILAN  
AMCONSUL NAPLES  
AMCONSUL PALERMO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
SHAPEUSNR  
USCINCEUR VAINGEN GER  
USDOCSOUTH  
USMISSION USNATO  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
AFOSI DIST 65 ROME IT/IVOA  
HG AFOSI WASHDC/IVOAD  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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EO 11652: NA  
TAGS: PINT, IT  
SUBJ: MORO KIDNAPPING--NEW LETTER APPEARS DURING PARLIAMENTARY  
DISCUSSION

SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT HAD ESSEN-  
TIALY NOTHING NEW TO REPORT, POLITICAL LEADERS FELT IT  
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NECESSARY TO DISCUSS THE MORO KIDNAPPING FORMALLY IN  
PARLIAMENT ON APRIL 4. THE BRIEF SESSION, INITIATED WITH  
A PRESENTATION BY PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI, WAS COORDINATED  
BEFOREHAND AT A FOUR-HOUR "COLLEGIAL" MEETING WITH THE FIVE  
PARTY SECRETARIES TO ASSURE A UNIFIED POLITICAL POSITION  
WHICH FIRMLY RULES OUT ANY NEGOTIATIONS BY THE GOVERNMENT  
WITH MORO'S RED BRIGADE CAPTORS. IN THE MIDST OF THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE (AGAIN DEMONSTRATING UNCANNY TIMING AND EFFICIENCY), A NEW LETTER FROM MORO AND ANOTHER RED BRIGADE COMMUNIQUE WERE DISCOVERED IN ROME, MILAN AND GENOA FOLLOWING TELEPHONE CALLS TO VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS. IN THE LATEST LETTER, THIS TIME ADDRESSED TO DC LEADERS, MORO REITERATES HIS PLEA FOR A PRISONER EXCHANGE IN A PATHETIC APPEAL TO THE CONSCIENCES OF HIS COLLEAGUES. WHILE UNDOUBTEDLY SHAKEN AND DEMORALIZED BY MORO'S LATEST LETTER, DC LEADERS ISSUED A BRIEF STATEMENT REAFFIRMING THEIR POSITION OF NO NEGOTIATIONS AND ADDING THAT MORO'S LETTER CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES THAT IT WAS "MORALLY NOT ATTRIBUTABLE TO HIM." END SUMMARY.

1. DURING THE COURSE OF A PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSION ON APRIL 4 OF THE MORO KIDNAPPING, WORD REACHED THE FLOOR THAT A NEW LETTER AND ANOTHER RED BRIGADE COMMUNIQUE HAD BEEN FOUND IN ROME, MILAN AND GENOA FOLLOWING TELEPHONE CALLS TO VARIOUS NEWSPAPERS. DC LEADERS WITHDREW TO CONSIDER MORO'S LATEST APPEAL, THIS TIME ADDRESSED TO PARTY SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI BUT ALSO SPECIFICALLY DIRECTLY TO PICCOLI, BARTOLOMEI, GALLONI, GASPARI, FANFANI, ANDREOTTI AND COSSIGA AS WELL. THE LETTER, WHICH IS JUDGED AS AUTHENTIC, APPEALS DIRECTLY TO THE CONSCIENCES OF MORO'S DC COLLEAGUES BY STATING THAT HE IS ENDURING A POLITICAL TRIAL FOR THE WHOLE PARTY. "I AM A POLITICAL PRISONER FOR WHOM YOUR BRUSQUE DECISION TO CLOSE OFF ANY COMMUNICATION IN REGARD TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OTHER PERSONS WHO ARE ACTUALLY IMPRISONED HAS MADE FOR AN UNBEARABLE SITUATION," THE LETTER STATES. IT MAKES AN

EXPLICIT SUGGESTION FOR A PRISONER EXCHANGE (ALTHOUGH NONE ARE SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIED IN EITHER THE LETTER OR THE GROUP'S LATEST COMMUNIQUE). WHILE THE LETTER IS ADDRESSED TO THE DC, MORO STATES THAT THE OTHER PARTIES AND PARTICULARLY THE PCI "ARE CERTAINLY INVOLVED AS WELL," NOTING THAT THE ABDUCTION TOOK PLACE ON THE DAY THE NEW GOVERNMENT "WHICH I HAD WORKED SO HARD TO CONSTRUCT" (I.E. WITH THE PCI) WAS TO BE "CONSECATED." THE LETTER ALSO INCLUDES PATHETIC PASSAGES (WHICH MANY OBSERVERS CONSIDER PARTICULARLY UNCHARACTERISTIC OF MORO) ON HIS FAMILY'S GREAT NEED FOR HIM AND COMPLAINT THAT THE KIDNAPPING WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL HAD "ADMINISTRATIVE REASONS" PERMITTED MORE ADEQUATE ESCORT PROTECTION.

2. THE LETTER LEFT POLITICAL LEADERS SHAKEN AND DEMORALIZED, BUT UNBENDING IN THEIR FIRM REFUSAL TO ENTER NEGOTIATIONS WITH MORO'S CAPTORS. DC LEADERS ISSUED A BRIEF STATEMENT REAFFIRMING THIS POSITION AND STATING THAT THE LETTER CANNOT BE "MORALLY ATTRIBUTABLE" TO MORO SINCE IT WAS

CLEARLY WRITTEN IN "CONDITIONS OF ABSOLUTE COERCION."  
POLITICAL LEADERS OF THE OTHER PARTIES, INCLUDING THE PCI,  
REACTED SIMILARLY.

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
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3. THEZIBED BRIGADE COMMUNIQUE (THE FORTH), THREE PAGES  
LONG AND APPARENTLY TYPED ON THE SAME IBU TYPEWRITER,  
CONTAINS NO DEMAND. IT STATES THAT MOR'S TRAIL  
"WILL PROCEED NORMALLY." IT REFERS TO THE RED BRIGADE'S  
EARLIER SUCCESSES IN LIBERATING THEIR COMRADES FROM ITALIAN  
PRISONS, BUT DIMISSES AS A "PROPAGANDISTIC MANEUVER"  
INSINUATIONS THAT THE FREEING OF PRISONERS (AND NOT A  
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"TRIAL OF THE REGIME") WAS THE PURPOSE OF MORO'S KIDNAPPING. IN ADDITION, A 60-PAGE PRINTED BOOKLET ON RED BRIGADE PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES, DATED FEBRUARY 1978, WAS LEFT WITH THE MORO LETTER AND COMMUNIQUE.

4. THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ON THE TERRORIST KIDNAPPING WAS PRECEDED ON APRIL 3 BY A "COLLEGIAL" MEETING OF THE FIVE PARTY SECRETARIES WITH ANDREOTTI AND INTERIOR MINISTER COSSIGA. ANDREOTTI HAD WISHED TO AVOID DISCUSSION OF THE CASE IN PARLIAMENT AND, IN PARTICULAR, A VOTE. A PARLIAMENTARY DISCUSSION WAS NONETHELESS DEEMED POLITICALLY NECESSARY. THE FIVE PARTIES AGREED, HOWEVER, TO KEEP THE SESSION BRIEF AND THEIR POSITIONS UNIFIED IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY APPEARANCE OF DISUNITY IN THE GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM.

5. THE APRIL 4 PARLIAMENTARY SESSION PRODUCED NO SURPRISES, CONFIRMING THE CLOSE COOPERATION ACHIEVED BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT SUPPORT ANDREOTTI'S GOVERNMENT ON A UNIFIED APPROACH TOWARD THE KIDNAPPING. IN HIS BRIEF PRESENTATION, ANDREOTTI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND POLICE AUTHORITIES REMAIN ESSENTIALLY IN THE DARK. "NOT EVEN TODAY, NEARLY THREE WEEKS AFTER THE TRAGIC EVENT," HE SAID, "ARE WE ABLE TO FURNISH TO THE CHAMBER KNOWN FACTS ON THOSE RESPONSIBLE, ON THE EXTENSION OF THE NETWORK OF COMPLICITY, ON THE LOCATION OF THE DARK PLACE WHERE IS BEING HELD." ANDREOTTI EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR THE "SPECIALIZED COOPERATION OFFERED AND GIVEN BY ALLIED, ASSOCIATED AND FRIENDLY COUNTRIES." HE CONFIRMED THAT THERE HAD BEEN THREE PREVIOUS COMMUNICATIONS FROM MORO--THE PUBLICIZED LETTER TO COSSIGA, AND TWO UNPUBLISHED LETTERS DELIVERED TO MORO'S PRIVATE SECRETARY, RANA (ONE TO MRS. MORO AND THE OTHER TO RANA). COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE

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SPECULATION THAT THE LETTER ADDRESSED TO RANA MAY CONTAIN SPECIFIC RANSOM PROPOSALS. END COMMENT.

6. ANDREOTTI ALSO REFERRED TO THE NUMEROUS ALLEGATIONS WHICH HAVE APPEARED IN THE PRESS OF FOREIGN COMPLICITY IN THE KIDNAPPING. HE SAID THE CHARGES HAD BEEN INVESTIGATED USING "EVERY POSSIBLE METHOD," BUT HE HAD NOTHING SOLID TO REPORT. IN A DISTINCT REFERENCE TO THE RECENT SOVIET AND CHINESE EXCHANGE OF ACCUSATIONS, ANDREOTTI SAID THAT BOTH COUNTRIES HAD BEEN REQUESTED THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS TO FURNISH WHATEVER EVIDENCE THEY HAD "IN VIEW OF THE 'OFFICIAL'"

WHICH HAD MADE THE CHARGES.

7. IN THIS CONNECTION, A NUMBER OF PAPERS SPECULATE ON THE TIMING (NEARLY 20 DAYS AFTER THE EVENT) OF A CPSU MESSAGE OF "SOLIDARITY" ADDRESSED TO THE PCI AND PUBLISHED PROMINENTLY IN L'UNITA APRIL 5. THE SOVIET PARTY MESSAGE DESCRIBES THE KIDNAPPING AS THE ACT OF "ADHERENTIST AND REACTIONARY FORCES" DIRECTLY AGAINST ITALY'S DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND, ABOVE ALL, THE PCI. ALTHOUGH THE CPSU CALLS FOR VIGILANCE AGAINST "INTERNAL AND INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS, IT REFRAINS FROM THE CHARGE RECENTLY MADE BY TASS AND NOVOSTY OF U.S. OR FOREIGN COMPLICITY. THE DELAY IN RECEIPT OF THE CPSU MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY PROMPTED SOME OBSERVERS TO SPECULATE THAT THE PCI REQUESTED THE STATEMENT TO COUNTER SUSPICIONS OF SOVIET OR CZECHOSLOVAKIAN INVOLVEMENT THAT HAVE GAINED CURRENCY IN ITALIAN PUBLIC OPINION. HOLMES

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** KIDNAPPING, PRIME MINISTER, DOCUMENTS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**TAGS:** PINT, IT, (MORO, ALDO)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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